

(e) [(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, for any fiscal year beginning before July 1, 2002, the rate of any hotel room tax imposed by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore may not exceed 7.5%.]

[(2)] (1) For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 1997 but before [July 1, 2007,] **JULY 1, 2012**, the Mayor and City Council shall appropriate from its General Fund **TO THE BALTIMORE AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS ASSOCIATION** specifically for Convention Center marketing and tourism promotion an amount equal to at least 40% of the proceeds of any hotel room tax imposed.

[(3)] (2) If the appropriation made for any fiscal year pursuant to paragraph [(2)] (1) of this subsection is less than the amount required when compared to actual receipts for the completed fiscal year, the difference shall be added to the appropriation to be made for the second succeeding fiscal year. If the appropriation made for any fiscal year pursuant to paragraph [(2)] (1) of this subsection is more than the amount required when compared to actual receipts for the completed fiscal year, the difference may be deleted from the appropriation to be made for the second succeeding fiscal year.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2007.

May 16, 2007

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 992 - *Criminal Procedure - Drug-Related Offenses - Parole Eligibility for Second Offenders*.

The current law, introduced in 1982 by Governor Harry Hughes and overwhelmingly passed by the General Assembly, mandates a minimum 10 year non-suspendable, non-parolable sentence for offenders convicted a second time of distributing, manufacturing, creating or dispensing Schedule I or Schedule II narcotics or hallucinogens. House Bill 992 would repeal the prohibition against parole if the person was not convicted of a crime of violence arising out of the incident that resulted in the mandatory minimum sentence.